



**What's in This Newsletter**

- Preparing for the Spring Show Season
- Cracking the Code on Muscle Disorders
- PBEC Service of the Week
- Photo of the Week From WEF
- Catch Up With PBEC on Instagram

### Preparing for the Spring Show Season With Palm Beach Equine Clinic

As winter winds down and everyone looks ahead to the exciting spring and summer show seasons, there are preparations that can be taken in your horse's care to ensure you get off on the right hoof. Close communication with your veterinarian can help you stay on track and ensure everything is properly addressed. Vaccinations, deworming, therapies and treatments, as well as shipping care and paperwork are all important to think about. At Palm Beach Equine Clinic in Wellington, FL, Dr. Elizabeth Barrett works with her clients to stay organized for the upcoming show season.



*Dr. Elizabeth Barrett competing in Wellington, FL.  
Photo by Bridget Ness Photography*

#### Vaccinations

Horses are generally vaccinated twice per year, in the fall and spring. If you and your horse are traveling to a new area for the spring and summer season, it is important to think about the requirements of that area or diseases more commonly found there. As an example, Dr. Barrett notes that the Potomac Fever vaccine is not always administered in Florida but can be important for horses traveling to the northeastern part of the country.

Vaccinations also need to be administered with enough time prior to shipping or competing, making scheduling considerations more crucial. Dr. Barrett maintains consistent communication with her clients to find the most optimal day to vaccinate such that it coincides with the horse's existing schedule. While horse owners and barn managers help organize timing, Dr. Barrett stays prepared on her end by counting her patients and ordering enough vaccines for them.

"The responsibility goes both ways," said Dr. Barrett. "Usually, the farm manager will let me know that they have some time off from showing, so it's a good time for spring vaccines. I might also remind them that it's getting to be time to do that so they can work it into their schedules."

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### Neuromuscular Biopsies: Cracking the Code on Muscle Disorders in Horses



*As a board-certified internal medicine specialist, Dr. Peter Heidmann diagnoses and treats muscle disorders in horses.  
Photo by Jump Media*

Identifying the root of performance issues in equine athletes can be like connecting a puzzle of often-ambiguous signs, or a process of elimination through diagnostics. Veterinarians can exhaust all the tools in their medical arsenal trying to figure out why a horse may be losing muscle mass and stamina or refusing to work, but the answer could be hiding in the horse's muscle tissue. Palm Beach Equine Clinic's board-certified internal medicine specialist Peter Heidmann, DVM, DACVIM, has a keen interest in connecting these signs and identifying muscle disorders.

"Correctly diagnosing and treating muscle disorders in horses can be a very rewarding process, because once you develop an effective treatment plan, the horse will usually experience an extraordinary recovery," explained Dr. Heidmann. "I've had cases where we sent muscle biopsy samples to a pathologist, enacted a treatment plan, and then sent another sample six months later to check our progress. The results were so impressive that the pathologist called to confirm that it was the same horse."

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### PBEC Service of the Week: Podiatry

Palm Beach Equine Clinic is proud to have beneficial consulting relationships with many equine medical professionals throughout the country, including Dr. Stephen O'Grady. Dr. O'Grady provides advanced services in equine podiatry, offering comprehensive diagnosis, treatment, and maintenance for a variety of foot conditions using medical therapy as well as therapeutic shoeing.



*Dr. Stephen O'Grady offers advanced services in equine podiatry at Palm Beach Equine Clinic.  
Photo by Jump Media*

Palm Beach Equine Clinic features the services of Dr. O'Grady for consultations throughout the year. With the experience and expertise of its world-class veterinarians, in addition to Dr. O'Grady's wealth of knowledge, Palm Beach Equine Clinic is able to provide the very best in advanced treatments in equine podiatry.

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### PBEC Photo of the Week from the Winter Equestrian Festival



*Photo by Sportfot*

### Catch Up With PBEC on Instagram



### Palm Beach Equine Clinic Works With AcutePlus



AcutePlus is a veterinary Wellness Membership Plan offered through Palm Beach Equine Clinic. The program is designed to give veterinarian practices a way to create a customized annual plan that they can offer directly to their clients and patients. AcutePlus provides veterinary discounts, equine protection, and equine loss protection.

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